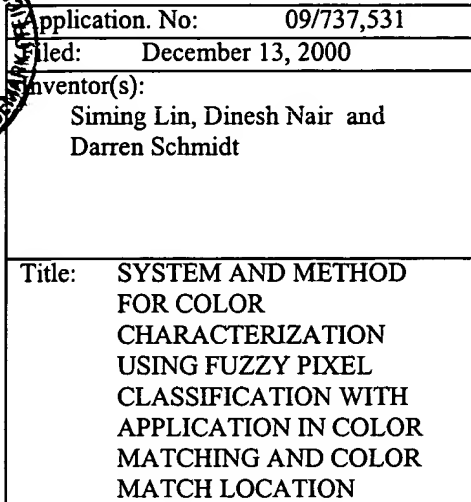


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir/Madam:

Applicant respectfully petitions under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) for a priority claim to be accepted for the present application to claim priority as a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/375,453, titled “System and Method for Color Characterization with Applications in Color Measurement and Color Matching”, filed August 17, 1999, whose inventors were Siming Lin and Dinesh Nair.

The priority claim was inadvertently omitted from the present application, and the entire delay between the time the claim was due under 37 CFR §1.78(a)(2) and the present time was unintentional. The Commissioner is authorized to charge the surcharge

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set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(t) to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit
Account No. 50-1505/5150-46400/JCH.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey C. Hood
Reg. No. 35,198
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

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Date: 4/18/2004